



# Annotated list in the graveyards trees of Rajshahi City, Bangladesh

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## General Note

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## ABSTRACT

Studies of tree species in the graveyards of Rajshahi city were carried out. A total of 54 species under 46 genera belonging to 24 families were collected and identified. Among the total number of species *Acacia nilotica*, *Acacia catechu*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Anthocephalus chinensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Erythrina variegata*, *Mangifera indica*, *Psidium guajava* were abundant and *Aphanomix polystachya*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Diospyros perigrina*, *Feronia limonia*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Phyllanthus emblica* were very rare. For each species scientific name, local name, family and flowering time is provided. All specimens are kept in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, and University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Diversity, Tree Species, Graveyards, Rajshahi City, Bangladesh

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In botany, a tree is a perennial plant with an elongated stem, or trunk, supporting branches and leaves in most species. In some usages, the definition of a tree may be narrower, including only woody plants with secondary growth, plants that are usable as lumber or plants above a specified height. Trees are not a taxonomic group but include a variety of plant species that have independently evolved a woody trunk and branches as a way to tower above other plants to compete for sunlight. In looser senses, the taller palms, the tree ferns, bananas and bamboos are also trees. Trees tend to be long-lived, some reaching several thousand years old. The tallest known tree, a coast redwood named Hyperion, stands 115.6 m (379 ft) high. Trees have been in existence for 370 million years. It is estimated that there are just over 3 trillion mature trees in the world.

A tree typically has many secondary branches supported clear of the ground by the trunk. This trunk typically contains woody tissue for strength, and vascular tissue to carry materials from one part of the tree to another. For most trees it is surrounded by a layer of bark which serves as a protective barrier. Below the ground, the roots branch and spread out widely; they serve to anchor the tree and extract moisture and nutrients from the soil. Above ground, the branches divide into smaller branches and shoots. The shoots typically bear leaves, which capture light energy and convert it into sugars by photosynthesis, providing the food for the tree's growth and development. Flowers and fruit may also be present, but some trees, such as conifers, instead have pollen cones and seed cones; others, such as tree ferns, produce spores instead.

Trees play a significant role in reducing erosion and moderating the climate. They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store large quantities of carbon in their tissues. Trees and forests provide a habitat for many species of animals and plants. Tropical rainforests are one of the most biodiversity habitats in the world. Trees provide shade and shelter, timber for construction, fuel for cooking and heating, and fruit for food as well as having many other uses. In parts of the world, forests are shrinking as trees are cleared to increase the amount of land available for agriculture. Because of their longevity and usefulness, trees have always been revered, with sacred groves in various cultures, and they play a role in many of the world's mythologies (Crowther *et al.* 2015).

The importance of studying local floristic diversity has been realized and carried out in Bangladesh by Ara *et al.* (2011, 2013), Khan and Afza (1968), Khan and Banu (1972), Khan and Hassan (1984), Khan and Huq (2001), Rahman *et al.* (2006), Rahman *et al.* (2007a, 2007b, 2007c), Rahman *et al.* (2008a, 2008b, 2008c, 2008d), Rahman *et al.* (2010, 2011, 2012), Rahman (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2013d, 2013e, 2013f, 2013g, 2013h, 2013i, 2013j, 2013k, 2013l), Rahman *et al.* (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2013d), Rahman and Akter (2013), Rahman and Khanom (2013), Rahman (2014), Rahman *et al.* (2014a, 2014b), Rahman and Gulshana (2014), Rahman and Rahman (2014), Rahman and Rojonigondha (2014), Rahman *et al.* (2015), Arefin *et al.* (2011), Rahman *et al.* (2013), and Uddin *et al.* (2010, 2013). The present study was made tree species diversity in the graveyards of Rajshahi city, Bangladesh.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study area

The research area are included the following three graveyards. **(a) Tikapara Graveyard:** It is situated in the East side of Bhoalia thana. The measurement of the area is near about 4 acres. It is an old graveyard. Probably it has been built about more than 100 years ago. Most of the graves are plastered and few are not. There is a "Mazar" in this graveyard. In some cases particular types of plants are planted in this area, i.e. *Ficus benghalensis*, *Ficus religiosa* etc. are gives shadow in summer people take rest sitting under these trees. It is also a protected area, common people cannot go there. Thus plants of these graveyards are survived easily. The graveyard is greater than the Hatem Khan graveyard and most of the graves are non-plastered. As a result diversity of species is seen more than Hatem Khan graveyard. **(b) Hatem Khan Graveyard:** It is situated in the North side of Bhoalia thana. The measurement of the area is near about 2 acres. It is an also old graveyard. Probably it has been built about more than 100 years ago. Most of the graves are plastered and few are not. There is a "Mazar" in this graveyard. Again steps have been taken to conserve specific types of plants, i.e. *Mangifera indica*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Psidium guajava*, *Litchi chinensis* etc. Fruits are got from these plants. It is also a protected area, common people cannot go there. Thus plants of these graveyards are survived easily like as Tikapara. Again the graveyard is greater than the Meherchandi graveyard and most of the graves are plastered in this area. As a result diversity of species is seen more than Meherchandi graveyard. **(c) Meherchandi Graveyard:** It is situated in the East side of Motihar thana. The measurement of the area is near about 1 acre. It is a new graveyard. Probably it has been built about more than 30 years ago. Most of the graves are plastered and few are not. There is a "Mosque" in this graveyard. It is an open and small graveyard. Grazing is held here regularly. Thus plants of this graveyard are not survived easily like as Tikapara and Hatem Khan. As a result biodiversity of Meherchandi graveyard is comperatively less than Tikapara and Hatem Khan graveyards.

## Methodology

Tree species diversity in the graveyards of Rajshahi city, Bangladesh was carried out. A total of 54 species belonging to 46 genera under 24 families were collected and identified. A survey on the determination of the location of different species was made and a list was prepared to be acquainted with the plants available in the selected area. All the species were noted and time to time the areas were visited to see when they flowered. For the morphological study, different types of species were examined again and again in order to see if there was any variation or not. They were collected at flowering stages and herbarium specimens were prepared as vouchers. In this practice standard method was followed. In this regard different types of plant species were collected from different habitats. All the collected plant specimens were kept in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, and University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

## Plant Identification

The major collected materials were identified and described up to species with the help of Hooker (1961), Prain (1963), Kirtikar and Basu (1987) and Ahmed *et al* (2007-2009) were consulted. For the current name and up-to-date nomenclature Pasha and Uddin (2013) and Huq (1986) were also consulted.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tree species diversity in the graveyards of Rajshahi city, Bangladesh conducted during January 1999 to December 1999. A total of 54 tree species belonging to 46 genera under 24 families were recorded. Mimosaceae, Rutaceae, Moraceae, Arecaceae, Meliaceae, Caesalpiniaceae and Mrtaceae are the dominant families with high species diversity. Distribution of tree species in the study area shows variation. The family Moraceae is represented by 8 species. The family Myrtaceae is represented by 5 species. Each of Mimosaceae, Arecaceae, and Meliaceae is represented by 4 species. Each of Rutaceae and Caesalpiniaceae is represented by 3 species. A single species in each was recorded by 12 families while two species in each was recorded by 5 families (Table 1). For each species botanical name, local name, flowering time and family were provided. Based on this study, a preliminary list of tree species in the graveyards of Rajshahi city, Bangladesh conducted during January 1999 to December 1999. A total of 54 tree species belonging to 46 genera under 24 families were recorded (Table 1). The collected information is comparable with the result of other studies in Bangladesh. A total of 90 tree species were recorded in Lawachara National Park (Uddin *et al*, 2010). A total of 150 tree species were recorded in Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary (Uddin *et al*, 2013). A total of 73 tree species were recorded in Munshiganj district (Rahman *et al*, 2013). A total of 73 tree species are documented in Habiganj district (Arefin *et al*, 2011). A total of 113 tree species are recorded in Rajshahi district (Rahman, 2013). A total of 121 tree species are recorded in Bangladesh Police Academy, Rajshahi (Rahman *et al*, 2014).

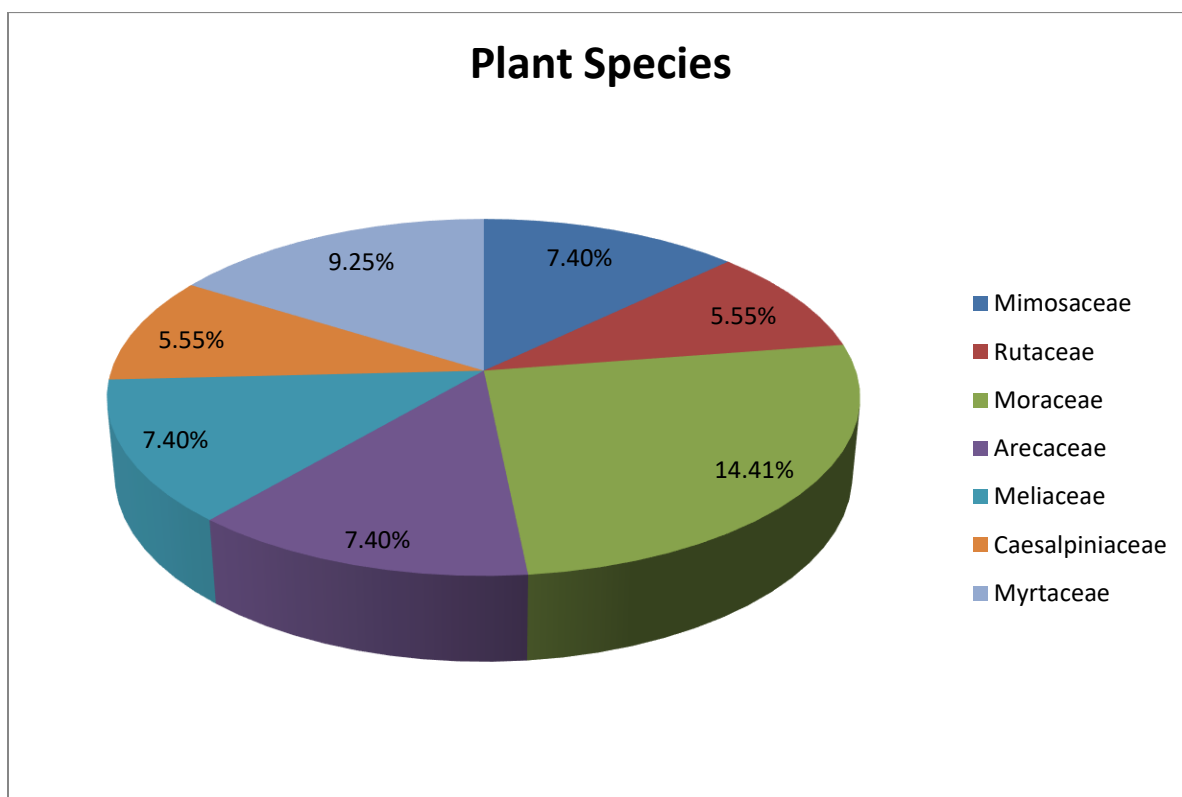
**Table 1** Tree species diversity in the graveyards of Rajshahi city, Bangladesh

S/N	Scientific name	Local name	Family name	Flowering time
1	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Willd.	Babla	Mimosaceae	May to April
2	<i>Acacia catechu</i> Willd.	Khoer	Mimosaceae	March to December
3	<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> A. Cunn ex Benth	Akashmoni	Mimosaceae	June to February
4	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa	Bel	Rutaceae	April to May
5	<i>Albizia procera</i> (L.) Benth.	Koroi	Mimosaceae	May to January
6	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R.Br.	Chatim	Apocynaceae	October to February
7	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Ata	Annonaceae	March to May

8	<i>Anthocephalus chinensis</i> (Lamk.) Rich ex Walx	Kadam	Rubiaceae	December to July
9	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lamk.	Kathal	Moraceae	February to July
10	<i>Areca catechu</i> L	Supari	Arecaceae	March to May
11	<i>Aphanomixis polystachya</i> (Wall.) R.N. Parker	Pitraj	Meliaceae	February to May
12	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A.Juss.	Neem	Meliaceae	March to July
13	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.	Shimul	Bombacaceae	January to March
14	<i>Bauhinia acuminata</i> L.	Kanchan	Caesalpiniaceae	March to November
15	<i>Bambusa balcooa</i> Schard	Bansh	Poaceae	Not known
16	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L	Tal	Arecaceae	March to April
17	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> (Curtis) Skeels.	Bottle Brush	Myrtaceae	January to December
18	<i>Citrus grandis</i> (L.) Osbek.	Jambura	Rutaceae	February to March
19	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L	Narikel	Arecaceae	January to December
20	<i>Diospyros perigrina</i> (Gar.) Gurke.	Desigab	Ebenaceae	April to May
21	<i>Diospyros philipensis</i> L.	Bilatigab	Ebenaceae	March to June
22	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb. ex A.P.DC.	Sissoo	Fabaceae	February to March
23	<i>Delonix regia</i> (Bojer) Raf.	Krisnochura	Caesalpiniaceae	April to June
24	<i>Erythrina variegata</i> (L.) Merr.	Mandar	Fabaceae	February to April
25	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> Hook.	Eucalyptus	Myrtaceae	June to December
26	<i>Feronia limonia</i> (L.) Swingle	Kothbel	Rutaceae	February to March
27	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Bot	Moraceae	May to August
28	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L	Jogdumur	Moraceae	September to November
29	<i>Ficus hispida</i> L. f.	Kakdumur	Moraceae	April to September

30	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	Pakur	Moraceae	March to October
31	<i>Ficus elastica</i> Roxb. ex Horn.	Bharotio bot	Moraceae	Aril to July
32	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i> (L.) Pers.	Jarul	Lythraceae	April to June
33	<i>Litchi chinensis</i> Sonn.	Litchu	Sapindaceae	January to February
34	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Amm	Anacardiaceae	January to March
35	<i>Manilkara zapota</i> (L.) P. Van. Royen	Sopheda	Sapotaceae	May to June
36	<i>Melia sempervirens</i> (L.) All.	Beraneem	Meliaceae	March to February
37	<i>Morus alba</i> L.	Tut	Moraceae	May to July
38	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lamk	Sojne	Moringaceae	January to December
39	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> L.	Sheuli	Oleaceae	February to April
40	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (Roxb.) Benth.	Jilaiphal	Mimosaceae	January to July
41	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	Piyara	Myrtaceae	January to December
42	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> Benth & Hook.	Debdaru	Annonaceae	March to April
43	<i>Punica granatum</i> L.	Dalim	Punicaceae	February to March
44	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Amloki	Euphorbiaceae	March to May
45	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> L.	Khejur	Arecaceae	February to April
46	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Rendri	Euphorbiaceae	January to December
47	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	Sheora	Moraceae	February to June
47	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeel	Jam	Myrtaceae	March to June
49	<i>Syzygium fruticosum</i> DC.	Khudijam	Myrtaceae	April to July
50	<i>Swetenia mahagoni</i> L.	Mehagoni	Meliaceae	April to November
51	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Tetul	Caesalpiniaceae	May to June

52	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb.) Wt & Arn.	Arjun	Combretaceae	April to May
53	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> (Gaertn) Retz.	Horitoki	Combretaceae	April to August
54	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i> Lamk.	Kul	Rhamnaceae	September to November



**Figure 1** Dominant Families in the study area



*Annona squamosa**Artocarpus heterophyllus**Ficus benghalensis**Ficus hispida**Ficus racemosa**Ficus religiosa**Morus alba**Bombax ceiba**Diospyros perigrina**Erythrina vareigata**Bauhinia acuminata**Delonix regia**Acacia nilotica**Tamarindus indica**Acacia catechu**Acacia auriculiformis***Figure 2** Important Tree Species in the Study Area



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